

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 H-02 L-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00 EA-11 RSR-01 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3756

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 4291

FROM THE AMBASSADOR FOR SISCO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, SK

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH SENATOR PELL ON SIKKIM

RAC : STATE 68057

1. I HOPE THE FOLLOWING " CURRENT REPORT" FROM OUR VANTAGE  
POINT IS HELPFUL IN RESPONDING TO SENATORS PELL AND PERCY.

2. WE RECEIVED A REPORT TODAY FROM AN EXPERIENCED AMERICAN  
OFFICIAL NOW POSTED IN EUROPE WHO WAS VACATIONING IN SIKKIM DURING  
THE CURRENT UNREST. THE OFFICIAL BELIEVES THAT THE DEMONSTRATIONS  
BY THE NEPALESE- SIKKIMESE MAJORITY AGAINST THE CHOGYAL' S  
REGIME, WHICH FAVORED THE INDIGENOUS MINORITY, WERE  
SPONTANEOUS, APPEARED TO BE NON- VIOLENT, WERE NOT INDUCED  
BY THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT. AT THE SAME TIME, INDIA HAS EVERY  
REASON TO BE SATISFIED WITH THE EVOLUTION OF EVENTS. IT HAS  
HANDLED THE SITUATION ADROITLY IN ORDER TO INSURE CONTINUED  
DE FACTO INDIAN CONTROL OF SIKKIM FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.  
INDIA, HOWEVER, DOES NOT PLAN TO INCORPORATE SIKKIM WITHIN  
INDIA.

3. DURING THE DEMONSTRATIONS, THE INDIAN POLITICAL AGENT IN  
GANGTOK, K. S. BAJPAI, CONFIDENTIALLY TOLD THE AMERICAN OFFICIAL  
( WHO WAS ADVISED TO LEAVE) THAT INDIAN CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE  
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CHINESE REACTION HAD LED THE GOVERNMENT TO BAN FOREIGNERS FROM SIKKIM.

4. I AM DUBIOUS OF THE ALLEGED CONCERN OVER THE CHINESE. IT SEEMS MORE LIKELY THE INDIANS DIDN' T WANT ANY FOREIGNERS AROUND SHOULD INDIAN TROOPS HAVE HAD TO OPEN FIRE ON LOCAL CROWDS. ANYWAY, THE CHINESE HAVE STAYED CALM.

5. THE REST OF THESE OBSERVATIONS GENERALLY CORRESPOND WITH THOSE IN MY CABLE ON THE SUBJECT APRIL 10 ( NEW DELHI 4127).

6. I EXPECT THAT COMMENTS BY THE CHOGYAL AND THOSE CLOSE TO HIM WILL ATTRIBUTE THE UNREST IN SIKKIM TO INDIA. IT SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND, HOWEVER, THAT INDIAN ACTIONS AFTER THE DEMONSTRATIONS BEGAN MAY WELL HAVE SAVED THE POSITION OF THE CHOGYAL. FROM WHAT WE CAN GATHER HERE, THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT HOPES TO MAINTAIN THE CHOGYAL AS TITULAR HEAD OF SIKKIM. HE SERVES AS A CONTROL OF SORTS ON THE LEPCHA AND BHUTIA MINORITY. THE INDIANS DON' T WANT TO RISK ANOTHER MIZO OR NAGA SITUATION WHICH THE CHINESE MIGHT IN THE FUTURE PLAY WITH. THE INDIANS HAVE HAD THEIR DIFFERENCES WITH THE CHOGYAL FOR A LONG TIME. I WOULD HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT SENATOR PELL WOULD NOT TAKE AT FACE VALUE ALL THE CHARGES AGAINST INDIA WHICH MAY BE MADE BY THE CHOGYAL AND HIS FAMILY.

7. I AGREE ENTIRELY WITH YOUR JUDGMENT THAT IT WOULD NOT BE IN OUR INTEREST TO ASK THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT TO LET US SEND AN EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE TO SIKKIM AT THIS TIME. PERHAPS IN A FEW MONTHS, WHEN THE SITUATION IN SIKKIM HAS SETTLED DOWN AND SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN WORKING OUR A COMPROMISE ACCEPTABLE TO THE CONFLICTING ROUPS IN SIKKIM, SENDING AN EMBASSY OFFICER MIGHT BE A SENSIBLE THING FOR US TO TRY AND DO. AT PRESENT I BELIEVE IT IS NOT.

8. I WILL BE SENDING BY SEPARATE CABLE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON SIKKIM. IT IS NOT MUCH, BUT IS IS ALL THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GATHER FROM SOURCES AVAILABLE TO US HERE IN NEW DELHI. MOYNIHAN

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

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